

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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reports containing information on the following:

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- a. Naval Defense Against Chemical and Nuclear Attack. 50X1-HUM
A four-page report on the training of naval units. *Naval base at Giurgiu*
with chemical unit description of nerve gases
- b. The 192nd Mechanized Infantry Regiment at Beius; a *with chemical equip. & chemical warfare training.*
one-page report on the composition and equipment of the regiment. *Composed of artillery unit.* 50X1-HUM

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Rumania

The 192nd Mechanized Infantry
Regiment at Beius

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1. The 192nd Mechanized Infantry Regiment was stationed at Beius, about 500 meters from the railroad station. Major Solomon Eremia was the commanding officer of the regiment
2. The regiment was composed of two rifle battalions and a combined artillery-armor battalion:
 - a. Each rifle battalion was composed of a reconnaissance company, a signals company, a machine gun company, and several rifle companies (exact number not known). One of the rifle battalions also had a company which served as a regimental noncommissioned officers' school.
 - b. The combined battalion had 76-mm. and 120-mm. guns (no details known) and five or six T-34 tanks.
 - c. The regiment also had an unknown number of RPG antitank weapons and ZIS trucks for transporting personnel.
3. The reconnaissance company was comparatively small and consisted of two reconnaissance sections and one engineers section. It was equipped with a BTR-40 armored personnel carrier with two machine guns, a BTR-152 armored personnel carrier with a twin-mount machine gun, and two ZIS trucks.
4. The regimental camp included the following buildings: three three-story barracks (two for the rifle battalions and one for the combined artillery-armor battalion), a soldiers' club and theater, an officers' mess hall, an equipment store, an ammunition store, and a garage for armored vehicles.

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COUNTRY : Rumania

SUBJECT : Naval Defense Against Chemical and Nuclear Attack 50X1-HUM

1. A base of the Rumanian Danube Fleet (Spatele Flotilei de Dunare)

was located at Giurgiu harbor (N43-53 E25-58) and was subordinate to Naval Headquarters at Constanta (N44-11 E28-39).

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2. A chemical platoon, consisting of 18 men and commanded by a lieutenant, was stationed at the base. The duties of the platoon were to sound the alarm and to execute detecting, neutralizing, and decontaminating operations in the event of nuclear or chemical attack. The platoon had its own store in which respirators, protective clothing, and equipment for detecting and decontaminating poisonous materials were kept.
3. Every member of the platoon had a secondary education and had undergone basic training at the base. They had all completed a seven-month course for noncommissioned chemical officers which covered the following subjects:
- a. Classical war gases
 - b. Various types of protective clothing and equipment, including a Soviet-made respirator which was the standard used by the

Rumanian Armed Forces

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- c. Equipment for detecting war gases: a light box that contained test tubes of liquid reagents and sticks of solid, absorbent reagents which changed color upon contact with poisonous gas; a pump for collecting samples of contaminated air; and small dishes of silica gels
- d. Decontaminating equipment: field showers and boilers for weapons; personal equipment
- e. Nuclear weapons, their destructible capabilities, and methods of defense against nuclear attack.

Training was not interrupted, and the students carried out exercises with the various types of defense equipment, particularly respirators, and almost every week spent short periods in a room filled with chloropicrin. The chemical platoon was organized at the completion of the course, and graduates were assigned their respective duties.

- 4. In 1957, separate groups of officers and enlisted men of the Giurgiu Naval Base were given a two-week course in chemical warfare which consisted of lectures, exercises, and demonstrations. In addition to the basic material that had been presented to members of the chemical platoon, two new subjects were emphasized:

- a. New gases that affected the nervous system, Tabun, Sarin, and Soman:¹ The trainees were impressed by the rapid action of these gases in experiments demonstrating exposure of rabbits and dogs to the gases under glass laboratory bells. The instructors took stringent precautions during and after the use of these gases, and the animals used in the experiment were buried at a great depth. The trainees were at no time taught how to

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- 3 -

counteract the effect of the gases, such as by injections. In 1958, the personal first aid kits used by the Rumanian Armed Forces did not include any antidote for the victims of these gases.

b. Equipment for the detection and measure of radioactivity: The following instruments were among about five which were demonstrated:

1. A radiation detector, consisting of a box carried on the body, earphones, and a stick similar to a hockey stick
2. A dosimeter, consisting of a central container, holding the measuring unit itself, and numerous individual recording instruments, which the soldiers carried and brought to the central container for measurement of the amount of radiation that had been absorbed by individuals or by the whole unit.

These instruments were demonstrated with radioactive material, and all the equipment was removed from the unit's store after completion of the course.

5. For a number of months after the course in chemical warfare, exercises were held in which small groups dug antinuclear attack shelters for motor transport, equipment, and personnel, and used personal protective equipment, including respirators and protective capes. All members of the unit had to spend a short period once a month in the room filled with chloropicrin until each one had been fitted with a suitable respirator.
6. In the fall of 1957, large scale maneuvers on the Danube climaxed the period of training. After the general alarm at the Naval Base had been sounded, and all defensive measures previously taught had been taken, pyrotechnic equipment was used to simulate an atomic

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- 4 -

blast a few hundred meters from the Naval Base. After the "attack", an extensive decontamination operation was executed on all land installations belonging to the base, without actually using decontaminating materials or even water. A river monitor served as the decontamination vessel for the naval units, and her men and equipment underwent "wet decontamination" treatment.

7. During the maneuvers, it was stressed that any alarm was to be regarded as a warning of an impending nuclear attack, and that all appropriate defensive measures were to be taken.

Comment: 1. The instructors stated that these gases were being used by the United States Armed Forces, but it evidently did not occur to the students to ask how the instructors happened to have such large quantities of these gases.

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